



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT  
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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**Councilor Karen Paul, Chair** WARD 6  
**Councilor Kurt Wright** WARD 4  
**Councilor Vince Brennan** WARD 3

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**Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council**

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 5:00 PM**

**645 Pine Street, front conference room**

**–MINUTES–**

Members present: Chair, Kurt Wright  
David Hartnett  
Vince Brennan

Others present: Steve Goodkind (Director, Public Works), Pat Buteau (Assistant Director, Public Works), Joe Reinert (Assistant to Mayor Kiss), Barbara Mines (Director, Burlington Electric Department), Nicole Losch (staff)

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Wright and Brennan in attendance.

I. Agenda  
Brennan moved to accept. Wright second.

II. Public Forum  
None.

III. Minutes of March 16, 2011  
Brennan moved to accept. Wright second.

Councilor Hartnett arrived at 5:17.

IV. Airport Garage Operations  
Wright: Council has received updates from DPW and Airport but communication has been piecemeal. TEUC is seeking a comprehensive update.  
Goodkind & Buteau: City Charter says DPW runs all municipal garages and lots. DPW began airport operations with surface lot in 1989. In 1998 Memorandum of Understanding modified financials; expired in 2000 without renewal by airport. In 2006 DPW asked to renegotiate financials because of new livable wage ordinance, AFSCME union-ship, and new equipment. Financials = 5%

of gross + expenses since 1996. DPW provides staff, onsite manager, and support at DPW. Rates and ticket loss policies are airport rules, as are handicap spacing policies.

Wright: How long has it been an issue?

Goodkind & Buteau: No issues from DPW, possibly a while since no renegotiations or agreement though.

Reinert: No written agreement but have standing agreement.

Wright: Thoughts on why airport is pursuing outside operations?

Goodkind: FAA requirements regarding options for operations. DPW reviewed policy and sees no problem from FAA. It has since morphed into financial issue, possibly regarding increased revenue from parking rates.

Hartnett: What does each side want?

Goodkind & Buteau: DPW wants to operate garage, share staff and management. \$300,000 shortfall to city without operations; would need to increase downtown rates to cover loss. Would need 4 FTE at airport garage and all other employees split between all other garages. DPW provides 95 shifts per week at 3 downtown garages + airport garage, with 23 staff; doesn't feel \$40,000 for management wouldn't be feasible with an outside company.

Brennan: Maintenance agreement?

Buteau: Equipment is DPW's and the rest is airport's.

Brennan: RFP details?

Goodkind: Security services, parking ambassadors, and parking all together or separate.

Hartnett: What funding goes to DPW's budget?

Goodkind: Revenue goes into general fund, which funds traffic (paint, signs, signals, guards)

Wright: Previous resolution from Councilor Paul?

Reinert: Resolution for airport and DPW Commission to communicate. Finance Board to review amendment to budget. It was defeated.

Wright: Are other airport operations the same?

Goodkind: It varies. Sometimes payment in lieu of taxes.

Wright: What if the garage revenue was taken from DPW?

Goodkind & Buteau: DPW expenses wouldn't change. Would need to lose 10 FTE. Approximately \$300,000 shortfall.

Brennan: Does RFP compare "apples to apples" for livable wage?

Goodkind: Benefits, retirement, disability and Union are not specified in RFP.

Brennan: Livable wage without benefits is in city ordinance?

Goodkind: 60% of wages = benefits. RFP language isn't competitive beyond livable wage. DPW didn't respond to RFP because budget is known and no interest in other programs.

Brennan: Can Council guide Airport Commission?

Reinert: Staff decision, Commission is advisory. RFP lies with department authorization that Council would accept. RFP process was appropriate and came from staff. They may have had strong direction from Commission. Issues around collective bargaining and budget. Don't yet know impacts from RFP.

Wright: Where are we now?

Goodkind: DPW operating and encouraging changes like license recognition to improve revenue. Is airport's decision and DPW will operate with equipment given by airport. Willing to talk and negotiate.

Hartnett: Should have a better written agreement and set timeline to sign contract. Consider language so operator can improve the system.

Brennan: Operations with DPW is in charter and RFP approval is separate. Airport recommendations through RFP would need two Council votes, one for charter change and one for RFP approval.

Goodkind: DPW contract will also need Council approval. RFP analysis will go to Mayor first.

Reinert: Can check on charter. Collective bargaining can't be discussed yet but would be an issue since replacing AFSCME positions with outside contractor.

Brennan: Noted this is an uncomfortable discussion without airport attendance at meeting.

Wright: Agrees. Noted they declined request to attend. Most Councilors don't fully understand the situation and want an open dialogue.

Goodkind: Commission is probably also unaware.

Hartnett: Is lost ticket policy different at airport?

Goodkind: No. Only policy difference is length of stay.

Wright: Requests written report including full history. Would like separate discussion and report from airport, then all side talking together.

#### V. BED Smart Grid

Grimes: update on June 28 vote, encouraging absentee votes.

Wright: open house?

Grimes: Thursday and Friday, noon – 8pm and 8am – noon. Stations with sample meters, vendors, customer service

Wright: Recent emails from residents?

Grimes: BED has responded to all. Two residents feel BED responses are inadequate. Some have requested BED wait. Some opposition to stimulus in general.

Wright: Who might mandate smart meters?

Grimes: Department of Public Service wants time of use rates to change. Can't change rate at time of use without smart meter. Congress has bill but not yet signed. BED couldn't wait. Money on projects is already in budget. Resolution and bond proposal is standard. Planning Free Press editorial that will be open, with pros and cons. Attended meetings in all NPAs, CCTVsoon, ad in North Ave News, Seven Days, Free Press. Invited Public Service Board to open house. VT PSB has 80-85% smart meters for 6 years.

Wright: how is ballot structured?

Grimes: 2 separate ballots. Could approve/disapprove hydroquebec and meters separately. Hydro is 100% renewable; without it rates would increase. Cash pool: claim has been that BED is using cash pool. No city money has been borrowed for any projects.

Wright: email from constituent says meters end up being more expensive because they raise rates during cheap times to offset fees/savings. So, educated users would use less, BED would lose money, BED would then raise rates.

Hartnett: not convinced enough users will educate themselves to save money. Need to get message out and educate everyone.

Wright and Hartnett: disappointed in emails calling BED liars, but don't feel a large number of residents feel that way.

Grimes: city has made some poor decisions that reflects poorly on all city departments.

Hartnett: is there a Lockheed connection?

Grimes: no talk with Lockheed or Sandia (other than VELCO with UVM)

VI. Complete Street Workshop Opportunity

Losch: City could pursue "Complete Street Implementation Workshop" for decisionmakers and key stakeholders. Considering fall full-day workshop. Seeking TEUC leadership and support for workshop.

Wright: Fall would be a good time. TEUC will participate and try to encourage other decisionmakers to attend.

VII. Complete Street Legislation

Losch: State legislation requires complete streets unless infeasible. Details in actual legislation. Expect to work with Agency of Transportation on implementation. Same language is already in City's Transportation Plan.

VIII. CCMPO/CCRPC representative for Technical Advisory Committee

Wright: recommend Nicole Losch as Technical Advisory Committee representative and Erin Demers as alternate. Forward recommendation to Lori Olberg.

Future meetings should airport discussion after we have more information on their schedule. Possible Colchester Ave update in September. North Ave Corridor Study will commence when Colchester Avenue is completed.

Hartnett moved to adjourn. Wright second. All in favor.

6:29 pm